SPECSINTACT NEWSLETTER

USER SUPPORT DESK

The SPECSINTACT User Support Desk is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (E.T.). Any questions concerning the operation of the SPECSINTACT System should be directed to the Support Desk.

Voicemail is used to take calls after hours and also in the event that Support Desk personnel are helping other users.

SPECSINTACT User Support Desk

Phone: (407) 867-8800
FAX: (407) 867-1444

E-Mail Address:

specsintact@ksc.nasa.gov

HOLIDAYS

The User Support Desk will be closed on the following dates during the holiday season:

Thanksgiving Nov. 28-29, 1996
Christmas Dec. 24-31, 1996
New Year's Day Jan. 1, 1997

SPECSINTACT SOFTWARE ON CCB

The 4th quarter Construction Criteria Base (CCB) compact disc, #38, contains the following two versions of SPECSINTACT for Windows:

SPECSINTACT with SGML
Version 2.0

See What's New
on the following page!

SPECSINTACT for Windows
Version 1.7
(without SGML)
Unchanged

Either of these SPECSINTACT applications may be used; however, each version uses different guide specification databases (Masters) from the CCB:

SPECSINTACT Masters in the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) format reside under the path **\sisgml\masters** on the CCB disc. Masters in the old format (i.e., the DOS editor format) reside under the path **\si\masters** on the CCB disc.

Before using SPECSINTACT with SGML, it is recommended that you complete open projects.

WHAT'S NEW IN SPECSINTACT VERSION 2.0

The changes and enhancements that were incorporated in SPECSINTACT with SGML Version 2.0 include the following.

Editor Performance
The Editor's scrolling and paging speed was markedly improved in Version 2.0, as was the Editor's ability to keep up with fast typing.

Editor Stability
Many problems that caused system failure were identified and corrected.

New Editor Features
The following new features were incorporated in the Editor:

Automatic Correction of Tagging Errors
When opening a file in the Editor, a dialog box ("Notice") may appear that tells the user that tagging errors were detected and corrected in the file. This alleviates the problem in the previous version of the Editor where the user was prompted to save changes, when closing a file, when no changes were apparent.

Replacement of Paperclip Symbols for Hidden Specifier Notes
The paperclip symbols, once used to indicate hidden specifier notes in a specification, were replaced with the single

pointer to improve the efficiency of the Editor. In instances where multiple notes occur, double pointer symbols will not be used. Instead, the dialog box that displays the hidden notes will contain an "adjacent note" notation. A wider dialog box is used to display notes.

Delete Block Progress Window

When deleting large blocks of text, a "progress window" will display to inform the user that this may be a lengthy process.

Select a Single Word
A single word may be selected (highlighted) by double-clicking on the word.

Mark a Block / Mark Entire Document
A block of text can be selected by holding down the <Shift> key when using cursor movement keys. From the home position, <Ctrl> <Shift> <End> will mark the entire document.

Insert Tags Command
The Insert Tags command now functions in the same manner as the Tool Bar buttons. Certain tags (e.g., REF, NTE, PRT, SPT) are inserted with additional formatting text.

Hourglass Feature
The hourglass feature was added to many processes to indicate that a function is being performed.

Side-Scrolling
A "side-scrolling" feature was added.

New WordSpec Software
SPECSINTACT users may perform editing functions in Microsoft Word for Windows by using WordSpec, an "add-in" for Word* that supports specification editing. For more details, see the WordSpec article that follows.

Submittal Register Improvements
Significant improvements were made to the Submittal Register report and the associated "stand-alone" submittal database. (The on-line User's Guide contains Trouble Shooting information for the Submittal Register. Refer to Appendix B.)

New User's Guide Features
The SPECSINTACT User's Guide was updated for Version 2.0. See the Support Desk Corner for details.

**WordSpec (Beta)
on CCB disc #38**

WordSpec is an "add-in" for Microsoft Word for Windows that will allow SPECSINTACT users to perform editing functions in Word*. It was released in Beta form on the 4th quarter CCB disc, #38.

The project specification is created using the SPECSINTACT application, then the WordSpec software is used to convert from SPECSINTACT with SGML format to Microsoft Word* format. Once editing is complete, the specification sections are converted back to SPECSINTACT with SGML so that they can be processed by the SPECSINTACT reporting system.

WordSpec provides a high level of flexibility and efficiency when producing job specifications. Word's powerful editing and formatting capabilities provide a significant degree of control and ease of use.

While there is a significant performance increase when using WordSpec, there are also limitations that are imposed by Word*. As a result of these limitations, WordSpec works best when the following two conditions are met:

1) Notes are visible while editing. They can easily and safely be hidden when printing.

2) Sections are converted as either English or Metric; meaning you are working with just one unit of measure and you cannot hide/display English or Metric units.

In addition to the above concerns, the WordSpec conversion process is very slow. On a 486/66 PC, conversion of a 30 section SPECSINTACT job to Word* takes just under one hour. Conversion from Word* back to SPECSINTACT with SGML format takes slightly longer.

For more details and start-up information about WordSpec, refer to **readme.txt** under the subdirectory **\sisgml\wordspec** on CCB disc #38.

*** Word for Windows is a product of
Microsoft   Corporation.**

SUPPORT DESK CORNER

SPECSINTACT WEB SITE
by David Maltby

The SPECSINTACT web site (www-de.ksc.nasa.gov/specsintact) is THE stop on the information highway to get all the details about the SPECSINTACT system. If you use SPECSINTACT, stop by weekly to get the latest.

The About box has an overview of the system and links to our development partners: the Army Corps of Engineers, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

In News find out about the latest development work on SPECSINTACT with SGML, get workarounds for known problems, read an electronic copy of this Newsletter and previous editions.

Although the CCB is the primary distribution method for SPECSINTACT software and Master Text, the web site is an important tool for getting the latest updates. You can download all the SPECSINTACT software from the Software section. Access SPECSINTACT for Windows v1.7 to full beta releases of the latest SPECSINTACT with SGML application. You will also be able to download patches to SPECSINTACT with SGML to bring your installed version up to the latest release, pre-release, or beta.

In addition, get an important new component of the SPECSINTACT system, WordSpec. WordSpec is an "add-in" for Microsoft Word for Windows that will allow SPECSINTACT users to perform editing functions in Word. WordSpec is currently in the development and

alpha testing phase, so new versions are coming out rapidly. Check back often and contribute to this new development.

On the Support page, get help with problems and information about SPECSINTACT training. We are also interested in getting your feedback. E-Mail us with your problems, questions and suggestions.

Bookmark
http://www-de.ksc.nasa.gov/specsintact
today !!

USER'S GUIDE FEATURES

The SPECSINTACT User's Guide (in Version 2.0) is more user friendly and contains more information than before! Some of the new features of the on-line Guide include **navigation by icons**, an appendix entitled **"How Do I?"**, and a **Trouble Shooting Guide**.

Navigation by icons allows you to get to the information you want by clicking on icons. For instance, to get information on the Options button on the Print dialog box, you would click on the Jobs icon, Jobs, Print, and then the Options button. You can navigate through the Guide by clicking on icons and commands as if you were

running the application itself.

Appendix A, **How Do I,** provides step by step instructions for performing some common SPECSINTACT tasks such as adding sections to a job, backing up a job, and printing job sections and reports.

Appendix B, **Common Questions and Trouble Shooting**, contains common SPECSINTACT questions (and answers) and a helpful trouble shooting guide. The trouble shooting guide contains extensive help with Submittal Register processing. Many common problems and solutions are presented in this guide.

The Introduction (in Chapter 1) contains a helpful diagram that shows Part and Subpart structure within **SPECSINTACT Format**. This diagram may provide an understanding of the tagging structure within a section, resulting in greater ease of editing.

Remember . . . .
The on-line User's Guide is accessible from the Help Menu.

PART AND SUBPART STRUCTURE

The industry standard Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) 3 PART format is utilized for preparation of master text guide specification sections and project sections. Each section should contain 3 PARTS* as follows:

> PART 1 GENERAL
> PART 2 PRODUCTS
> PART 3 EXECUTION

If one of the PARTS is not applicable to the section, the part number and title should be entered and the statement "(Not Applicable)" in

parenthesis should be included after the title (for NASA and Army specs). For Navy specifications, "Not used." is placed in the position where the paragraph text would otherwise begin.

Within each of the 3 PARTS, SPECSINTACT will only accept three lower levels used for organization of text as follows:

> 1.1 ARTICLE (1st tier paragraph)
> 1.1.1 Paragraphs (2nd tier)
> 1.1.1.1 Subparagraphs (3rd tier)

* *Sections in Divisions 00 and 01 do not require the standard three part format; however, the PART and SUBPART tags must be used if the table of contents and renumbering functions are to be utilized. Additionally, sections in Divisions 00 and 01 are not required to have the standard part titles (i.e., GENERAL, PRODUCTS, EXECUTION) if they do not apply.*

For more information on SPECSINTACT format, refer to the Introduction of the User's Guide.

If you have information you would like to share in the SPECSINTACT Newsletter, send your ideas to:

SPECSINTACT Newsletter
EG&G Florida / BOC-196
Attention: Freda Cash
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

SPECSINTACT INTERAGENCY BOARD MEETS

The SPECSINTACT Interagency Configuration Control and Coordinating Board (SI-CCCB) met on October 23 and 24 in Washington, D.C. The meeting was hosted by NASA Headquarters. Miguel Morales of NASA Kennedy Space Center was appointed as the new SI-CCCB Chairman.

The improvements in the SPECSINTACT Editor, the new interface to Microsoft Word for Windows, and enhancements scheduled for future releases of SPECSINTACT are some of the topics that were discussed at the October meeting. The Change Control Requests that were presented at the meeting are listed beginning on Page 8 of this Newsletter.

NASA CORNER

NASA MASTER TEXT UPDATES

In order to conform to the new Construction Specification Institute (CSI) format, the majority of the NASA Master Text section numbers were changed. Some section titles were also changed. These changes apply to both the SGML text and the text in the old (DOS) format.

For details concerning changes to the NASA and NASAKSC Master Text, refer to the Agency Document Files command found on

the SPECSINTACT Forms / Documents Menu (SGML) and the Assistance Menu (non-SGML). Select the file named CHANGES to access this information.

NASA SPECSINTACT BOARD MEETS

The NASA SPECSINTACT Configuration, Control and Coordinating Board (NS-CCCB) met on November 6 and 7 in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting was hosted by Goddard Space Flight Center. Improvements made to the SPECSINTACT Editor, Executive Orders currently being worked, and the new CSI MASTERFORMAT are among the topics that were discussed.

The next meeting of the NS-CCCB is tentatively scheduled to be held in Louisiana in May 1997 (to precede the next SI-CCCB meeting).

NAVY CORNER

PROJECT TITLE PAGE GENERATOR
by Ford Chinworth

The Project Title Page Generator program has been enhanced and reintroduced, under "Tools," on the CCB #38. The program allows you to generate the Title Page for the written documentation (bidding or proposal requirements, contracting requirements, and

specifications) for a construction project. The program is most useful for construction projects administered by an activity of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) or any other component of the U.S. Navy.

Who should prepare a Title Page for an individual construction project, and when, is a decision left to the various activities. Project Title Pages may be created on the personal computers of various project engineers or architects, various contracting specialists, on a single machine at either of those offices, or by the various architect/engineer contractors.

The purpose of the Title Page Generator is to further the goals of the Department of Defense (DoD) Acquisition Reform, with its imperative for using more commercial processes in our practice. One such area of commercial practice is the format by which we present our construction contract solicitations. Title Pages created by the program help our solicitation packages conform to the usual commercial format.

WELCOME ABOARD !!!

The NAVFAC Guide Specifications Division in Port Hueneme, California welcomes the newest addition to their Division . . . .
        BEVERLEY J. AMAR.
Beverley comes from another Department in the Civil Engineer Support Office organization. She will eventually be learning SPECSINTACT and handling the NAVFAC support line. So users . . . . be kind and patient. The NAVFAC support line phone number is (805) 982-6103.

ARMY CORNER

SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES FOR ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

SPECSINTACT includes 19 submittal descriptions. Ten submittal descriptions are used in the Corps of Engineers guide specifications (CEGS - Series). The other nine submittal descriptions are used by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC). If NAVFAC guide specifications are used in a Corps project, refer to Army Section 01300, "SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES," PART 1 GENERAL.

ARMY SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- The Submittal Article in the various technical sections must be in PART 1 and entitled "1.X   SUBMITTALS." ("X" represents any number.)
- Submittal items are identified in subparts throughout the text.
- All items surrounded by _{and} tags will appear on the Submittal Register form.

1620s PRESENTED TO SI-CCCB
OCTOBER 23 -24, 1996

Number	Description	Action	Submitting Agency
1049	Software Upgrade to Handle Graphics	Approved (Reviewed)	Army, Ray Duncan
2052	Incorporate Edit option system: Tailoring Options	Approved (Reviewed)	Navy, F. Chinworth
941-003	Add function to the Editor to remove Change Notice tags	Approved (Reviewed)	Army, Jim Quinn
941-012	Test Token (tags) in Paragraph Titles	Withdrawn	Army, Jim Quinn
941-013	Redesign NASA Form 1620	Approved (Reviewed)	Army, Jim Quinn
941-016	Add option to insert symbols	Withdrawn	EG&G Florida, Inc.
941-017	Metric / English converter	Withdrawn	EG&G Florida, Inc.
941-020	Extend the current Table tagging structure and capabilities	Approved (Reviewed)	Army, Elora Pearson
951-001	Adding SGML List Structure to SPECSINTACT Tagging.	Deferred	EG&G Florida, Inc.
951-008	Include a Sample Job with Reports for each release of SPECSINTACT	Withdrawn	NAVFAC Criteria Mtg
951-011	Software link between SPECSINTACT and Intergraph	Withdrawn	Army, Rodger Seeman
951-013	Add automatic link between Validation Error Log and the section(s) with errors	Approved (Reviewed)	NASA, Kenny Hudson

1620s PRESENTED TO SI-CCCB (continued)

Number	Description	Action	Submitting Agency
951-015	Single Master Reference List (SMRL) compatibility with SPECSINTACT with SGML	Deferred	Army, Jim Quinn
951-016	Adopt a standard system for assigning numbers to Referenced Standards	Deferred	Army, Jim Quinn
951-021	Change footer for 00 sections to read "Document" instead of "Section"	Approved (Reviewed)	Navy, F. Chinworth
951-022	Allow user to Add and Modify a footer for the Submittal Register	Withdrawn	Army, Glen Heard
951-023	Automate Bracket removal	Approved	EG&G Florida, Inc.
951-024	Add page numbers to Project Table of Contents	Approved (Reviewed)	Navy, F. Chinworth
951-025	Add "Not Used" to Project Table of Contents for Divisions that are not used	Approved (Reviewed)	Navy, F. Chinworth
961-001	Establish a tag for "Keyword"	Withdrawn	Navy, F. Chinworth
961-002	Add option to Copy Section	Withdrawn	Army, John Horner
961-003	Project Manuals for NAVFAC construction projects	Withdrawn	Navy, F. Chinworth
961-004	Reposition Backup / Restore radio button	Rejected	Computype
961-005	Rewrite WordSpec in C/C++ for performance (speed) improvements	Approved	EG&G Florida, Inc.
961-006	Provide Word Perfect editing capability	Approved	EG&G Florida, Inc.

1620s PRESENTED TO SI-CCCB (continued)

Number	Description	Action	Submitting Agency
961-007	Improve alternative user interface for SGML jobs	Approved	EG&G Florida, Inc.
961-008	Make SPECSINTACT with SGML compatible with Windows 95 and NT (32 bit Operating Systems)	Approved	EG&G Florida, Inc.
961-009	Provide a link between "References" "Look-Up" results and Editor	Approved	NASA, Kenny Hudson
961-010	Provide a way to save Change Control Request form	Approved	Navy, L. McMonegal
961-011	Provide a link between CAD and SPECSINTACT	Approved	Navy, F. Chinworth
961-012	Automate Testing Plan and Log	Deferred	Holmes & Narver
961-013	Provide automatic reconciliation of Submittal items	Rejected	Navy, Calvin Crofford
961-014	Add "Renumber Paragraphs" option to Masters Menu	Approved	Navy, Stella Hatt